

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

Claim 1 (Cancelled)

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A boat having enhanced stability, safety and comfort, comprising:

a ~~unit-body-boat~~ single hull unit having at least one elongated, substantially vertical slot extending substantially therethrough such that said slot divides said ~~boat~~ single hull unit into at least two substantially separate buoyant compartments, and such that water, on which the boat is floating, freely communicates with said slot and with air within and surrounding said slot;

wherein said slot is fully or partly open at at least a bow or a stern or a port side or a starboard side of said ~~boat~~ single hull unit, or at a top or a bottom of said slot;

wherein said single hull unit has a single bow portion substantially at a centerline of said single hull unit and

wherein said substantially vertical slot has a cross sectional area such that a vertical dimension of said cross sectional area of said slot is substantially greater than a horizontal dimension of said cross sectional area of said slot.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The boat of claim 2, wherein said slot extends longitudinally through said ~~boat~~ single hull unit,

wherein said slot runs at least most of the length of said single hull unit.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A boat having enhanced stability, safety and comfort, comprising:

a ~~unit body boat~~ single hull unit having at least one elongated, substantially vertical slot extending substantially therethrough such that said slot divides said ~~boat~~ single hull unit into at least two substantially separate buoyant compartments and such that water, on which said boat is floating, freely communicates with said slot and with air within and surrounding said slot; wherein said slot is fully or partly open at a stern and closed at a bow of said single hull unit, or said slot is fully or partly closed at a stern and open at a bow of said ~~boat~~ single hull unit;

wherein said single hull unit has a single bow portion substantially at a centerline of said single hull unit and

wherein said substantially vertical slot has a cross sectional area such that a vertical dimension of said cross sectional area of said slot is substantially greater than a horizontal dimension of said cross sectional area of said slot.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The boat of claim 3, wherein said slot is open on a bottom of said ~~boat~~ single hull unit.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The boat of claim 3, wherein said slot is closed on a bottom of said ~~boat~~ single hull unit.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A boat having enhanced stability, safety and comfort, comprising:

a ~~unit body boat~~ single hull unit having at least one elongated, substantially vertical slot extending approximately the length of said ~~boat~~ single hull unit such that said slot divides said ~~boat~~ single hull unit into at least two substantially separate buoyant compartments, and such that water, on which the boat is floating, freely communicates with said slot and with air within and surrounding said ~~[[lot]]~~ slot; wherein said slot is closed at a bow and at a stern of said ~~boat~~ single hull unit;

wherein said single hull unit has a single bow portion substantially at a centerline of said single hull unit and

wherein said substantially vertical slot has a cross sectional area such that a vertical dimension of said cross sectional area of said slot is substantially greater than a horizontal dimension of said cross sectional area of said slot.

Claim 9 (Original): The boat of claim 2, wherein an air vent is communicated with said slot.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The boat of claim 3, wherein said slot is intermittently open on its bottom or on its top.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The boat of claim 2, wherein said slot extends upwardly to a location above the waterline of said boat, such that said slot is simultaneously above and below said waterline.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The boat of claim 3, wherein said slot extends substantially along a longitudinal centerline of said ~~boat~~ single hull unit.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The boat of claim 2, wherein said slot extends longitudinally or transversely through said ~~boat~~ single hull unit substantially along a longitudinal or transverse centerline thereof, and is fully or partly open on a stern, and on either a bow or a bottom of said ~~boat hull~~, and ~~further~~ wherein said slot extends upwardly to a location above the waterline of said single hull unit ~~boat~~ such that said slot is simultaneously above and below said waterline.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The boat of claim 2, wherein multiple centers of buoyancy are created, at least one each on opposing sides of said slot.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A boat having enhanced stability, safety and comfort, comprising:

a ~~unit-body-boat~~ single hull unit having at least one elongated, substantially vertical slot extending substantially therethrough such that said slot divides said ~~boat~~ single hull unit into at least two substantially separate buoyant compartments, and such that water, on which said boat is floating, freely communicates with said slot and with air within and surrounding said slot; wherein said slot extends transversely through said ~~boat~~ single hull unit;

wherein said single hull unit has a single bow portion substantially at a centerline of said single hull unit;

wherein said slot is fully or partly open at at least a port side or a starboard side of said single hull unit, or at a top or a bottom of said slot; and

wherein said substantially vertical slot has a cross sectional area such that a vertical dimension of said cross sectional area of said slot is substantially greater than a horizontal dimension of said cross sectional area of said slot.

Claim 16 (Original): The boat of claim 15, wherein said transverse slot is angled.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The boat of claim 15, wherein said boat has two hull units and is a catamaran, and wherein ~~at least one hull unit of said two hull units of the catamaran~~ has a transverse slot extending substantially therethrough.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The boat of claim 15, wherein said boat has three hull units and is a trimaran, and wherein ~~at least~~ one hull unit of said three hull units of the trimaran has a transverse slot extending substantially therethrough.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The boat of claim 15, further comprising a second slot, wherein said ~~slot extends transversely through said boat hull, and said~~ second slot extends longitudinally through said ~~boat~~ single hull unit.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The boat of claim 2, wherein said ~~boat~~ single hull unit includes a plurality of elongated slots extending longitudinally or transversely therethrough.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The boat of claim 20, wherein said ~~boat~~ single hull unit includes 3 elongated slots extending longitudinally therethrough, and wherein one of said 3 slots extends substantially along a centerline of said ~~boat~~ single hull unit.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The boat of claim 15, wherein multiple centers of buoyancy are created, at least one each on opposing sides of said slot.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The boat of claim 2, wherein said ~~boat~~ single hull unit is the hull unit of a submarine vessel hull.

Claim 24 (New): A boat having enhanced stability, safety and comfort, comprising:
a single hull unit having at least one elongated, substantially vertical slot extending substantially therethrough such that said slot divides said single hull unit into at least two substantially separate buoyant compartments, and such that water, on which the boat is floating, freely communicates with said slot and with air within and surrounding said slot;
wherein said slot is fully or partly open at at least a bow or a stern or a port side or a starboard side of said single hull unit, or at a top or a bottom of said slot;
wherein said single hull unit has a single bow portion;
wherein said single bow portion is substantially at a centerline of said single hull unit;
wherein said substantially vertical slot has a cross sectional area such that a vertical dimension of said cross sectional area of said slot is substantially greater than a horizontal dimension of said cross sectional area of said slot.

Claim 25 (New): The boat of claim 2, wherein the width of said slot is substantially constant along its length.

Claim 26 (New): The boat of claim 15, wherein said slot extends transversely through said single hull unit, and is fully or partly open at a top or bottom and wherein said slot extends upwardly to a location above the waterline of said single hull unit such that said slot is simultaneously above and below said waterline.